



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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**DONTE CHAVFUL SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON
FOR 1996 FAILED ROBBERY ATTEMPT OF STAR SHUTTLE
THAT RESULTED IN DEATH OF DRIVER**

(San Antonio, Texas) **United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that, 26-year-old **DONTE CHAVFUL**, of San Antonio was sentenced to life in federal prison for his role in the August 2, 1996, armed robbery of a Star Shuttle that caused the death of the driver James Bean.

On December 16, 2002, jurors convicted Chavful of (1) conspiracy to commit robbery, (2) attempted robbery and (3) use of a firearm during a crime of violence. Evidence presented at trial revealed that Chavful, an admitted Crips gang member, pointed a gun at Bean in front of a downtown hotel, demanded money, then shot and killed Bean when he failed to comply.

"This was a senseless and tragic crime. Because of Donte Chavful's greed and brutality, a husband and father is gone and a family is scarred forever. Mr. Chavful deserves every day of the life sentence he received from Judge Prado for this awful crime," stated **U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton**.

"This particular case is an example of the cooperation between federal and local law enforcement agencies working together under the FBI's Safe Streets Initiative," stated Al Ortiz, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, San Antonio Division.

This case resulted from an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, San Antonio Police Department and the Bexar County Sheriff's Office with assistance from the United States Marshals Service, Bexar County Forensics Science Center and the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office. Assistant United States Attorneys Mike Hardy and Tom McHugh prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

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